

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 432 053

EA 029 919

TITLE Overview of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools and Districts: School Year 1997-98. Statistics in Brief.

INSTITUTION National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.

REPORT NO NCES-1999-322

PUB DATE 1999-06-00

NOTE 14p.; For the same brief covering 1996-97, see ED 426 459.

PUB TYPE Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Research (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Elementary Secondary Education; *National Surveys; Profiles; *Public Schools; *School Demography; School District Size; School Districts; Statistical Data; Student Characteristics; Tables (Data)

ABSTRACT

This document provides a synopsis of public-school characteristics and includes statistical summaries of schools, districts, and students. It examines the various types of public schools in the U.S., stating that 87,631 public schools furnished instruction to 46.1 million students in the 1997-98 school year. Most public-school students, 98.1 percent, were enrolled in regular schools: one out of eight schools was located in a large city and one out of six students attended a large-city schools. About 58.5 percent of these students spanned the traditional primary grades. School districts ranged in size from 25 districts enrolling 100,000 or more students to 1,738 districts reporting fewer than 150 students. Student characteristics varied widely. One in eight students had an individualized education program, two-thirds of students were White, non-Hispanic, and one-sixth were Black, non-Hispanic. More than one-third of the students in California, New Mexico, and Texas were Hispanic. Dropout statistics indicate that 15 of the reporting states--about half of those supplying data--had dropout rates between 4 and 6 percent. Dropouts were more likely to be male than female. The report provides technical notes and includes definitions of key terms. The report's data is presented in seven tables, with the information presented by state. (RJM)

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Statistics in Brief

June 1999

Overview of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools and Districts: School Year 1997-98

Content Contact: Types of Public Schools
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In the 1997-98 school year states reported almost 90,000 public schools. Most of these were regular schools, which offer a comprehensive curriculum and may provide a range of other programs and services as well. Considerably smaller numbers of schools focused primarily on special education, vocational/technical or career education, or alternative programs. Students in these specialized schools are often also enrolled in a regular school and reported in the membership of that regular school (see Key Terms for more information about school types).

Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in 1997-98

	Regular	Special	Vocational	Alternative
Total schools in United States	82,660	2,068	930	3,850
No. reporting membership	82,127	1,764	360	3,380
No. not reporting membership	533	304	570	470

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Schools with Students in Membership

In the 1997-98 school year 87,631 public schools provided instruction to 46.1 million students in the United States (table 1).¹ This was an increase of about 1.2 percent from the previous year's 45,592,213 students and a gain of 1.8 percent from the 86,058 schools in 1996-97. Most of these 1997-98 school year institutions were regular schools (82,127). Among the total number of schools for whom student membership was reported

¹ Although the outlying areas and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (overseas) are included in the tables, national totals are limited to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Comparisons are based on *Overview of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools and Districts: School Year 1996-97* (NCES 98-204).

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement NCES 1999-322

were 1,764 schools whose major function was to provide special education for students with disabilities and 360 identified as vocational, technical, or career schools. Some 3,380 schools were reported to offer other alternative programs. While this is a relatively small number, there are one-sixth again as many of these schools as there were last year.

The great majority of public school students, 98.1 percent, were enrolled in regular schools. An additional 0.5 percent were in special education schools, 0.4 percent in vocational schools, and 1.0 percent in alternative schools. These distributions were unchanged from the previous year. Mississippi, New Hampshire, and North Dakota reported only regular schools. With 8.1 percent of its pupils enrolled in non-regular schools, Delaware had the greatest proportion of students in these specialized settings.

Schools and Community Size

Table 2 shows that while one in eight schools was located in a large city, one in six students attended large city schools. There were about the same number of schools in rural areas and the urban fringes of large cities: about one in four schools, respectively. However, schools in cities' urban fringes accounted for twice as many students as did rural schools.

Primary, Middle, High Schools

Among the 87,631 public schools with students in membership during the 1997-98 school year, about 58.5 percent spanned the traditional primary grades, typically beginning with prekindergarten or kindergarten and going no higher than grade 8 (table 3; see Key Terms for complete definitions of instructional levels). About half (50.1 percent) of the nation's public school students

were enrolled in these schools. An additional 17.3 percent of the schools covered the upper elementary and middle grades, and offered instruction to 19.6 percent of public school students.

High schools represented 18.9 percent of the schools reported, and enrolled 27.1 percent of the total number of students. About 5.3 percent of schools followed some other grade configuration, including schools that spanned all of grades kindergarten through 12 and those that were ungraded.

School District Grade Spans

In 1997-98 there were 15,035 public education agencies providing education services directly to students in the United States. Some 608 of these were operated directly by states or federal agencies, or had a primary role other than that of administering regular educational services. However, the majority of public education agencies (14,427) were regular school districts providing education to children within their jurisdiction (table 4).

States vary in the organization of their regular education agencies. Hawaii and the District of Columbia each consist of a single K-12 school district. Sixteen other states also reported 100 percent of their students enrolled in comprehensive K-12 school districts. On the other hand, in Montana and Vermont less than one-third of the students were served in this type of school district.

Among the 14,427 regular school districts with pupils in membership, 3,153 were responsible for only the elementary grades, beginning with grades prekindergarten, kindergarten, or one and ending at grade eight or below (table 4). These districts enrolled

5.9 percent of the nation's public school students. An additional 557 agencies could be characterized as secondary school districts, with a low grade of 7 or higher and a high grade of 12. Some 2.3 percent of all students attended schools in these districts. An additional 137 districts had some other grade configuration. However, almost three out of four districts (10,580) provided instruction from the beginning of school through graduation. Fully 91.8 percent of all students were enrolled in these comprehensive school districts.

School District Size

School districts ranged greatly in size, as measured by the number of students in membership. A very few districts (25) enrolled 100,000 or more students while a larger number (1,738) reported fewer than 150 students (table 5). While small in number, the largest districts served a considerable portion of students in America's public schools. Although only 1.6 percent of districts served 25,000 or more students, fully 31.5 percent of students received their education in these largest districts. To show the contrast from a different perspective, almost half of the school districts in the United States had fewer than 1,000 students in 1997-98. At the same time, about half of the public school students in this country attended schools in districts of 10,000 students or more.

Student Characteristics

Because participation in the Free Lunch Program depends on income, eligibility for this program is often used to estimate student needs. Nine states did not report free lunch eligibility data for at least 70 percent of their schools, so national totals could not be

calculated (see table 6). Within those states and schools that did provide this information, the proportion of students who were reported as eligible to receive a free lunch ranged from a low of 11.3 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 55.6 percent in Mississippi. (The District of Columbia had an eligibility rate of 69.3 percent in the previous year, but did not report these data in 1997-98.)

Nationally, about one in every eight students was reported to have an individualized education program (IEP), meaning that they participate in special education services. The percentage of students with IEPs ranged from 4.1 percent in Michigan to 17.7 percent in Rhode Island.

About two-thirds of the public school students in the United States in 1997-98 were white, non-Hispanic and about one-sixth were black, non-Hispanic. American Indian/Alaskan natives were about one in four students in Alaska, while over two-thirds of the students in Hawaii were in the Asian/Pacific Islander category. More than one-third of the students were Hispanic in California, New Mexico, and Texas. Over half of the students were black, non-Hispanic, in the District of Columbia (87.0 percent) and Mississippi (50.9 percent). White, non-Hispanic students made up less than half of the student membership in six states, and represented 90 percent or more of the students in five other states. At the national level, none of the racial/ethnic groups changed by as much as 1 percentage point over the previous year.

Dropouts

Thirty-two states reported dropout statistics in agreement with the Common Core of Data's definition (see table 7). Among these

jurisdictions, Louisiana and Nevada reported that more than 10 percent of students in grades 9–12 had dropped out during the preceding school year. Iowa, North Dakota, and South Carolina reported dropout rates among these grades at less than 3 percent. Fifteen of the reporting states, or about half, had dropout rates somewhere between 4.0 and 6.0 percent. Dropouts were more likely to be male than female. In Ohio and South Carolina at least three out of five of the grade 9–12 dropouts were male. In California, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Texas, which have relatively high proportions of minority enrollments, 70 percent or more of the dropouts were minority students, that is, other than white, non-Hispanic.

Technical Notes

The Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey and Public Education Agency Survey are annual state-level collections of information about the numbers and types of public schools and education agencies, the numbers and selected characteristics of students, dropouts, and numbers of staff. These two surveys also include directory information such as school and agency names, addresses, and telephone numbers. The School and Agency Surveys are part of the Common Core of Data (CCD) collection of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and use information reported by state education agencies.

Missing data. Not all states collect and report all of the data items on these surveys. NCES estimates, or imputes, some missing data at the state level if an item has been reported in the past. (Free lunch eligibility and dropout counts are not imputed.) If an item is not imputed it is shown as "missing." When

information is missing for one or more states, as is the case with counts of students eligible for the federal Free Lunch Program, NCES does not calculate national totals. (A state is considered to have missing data if an item is reported by less than 70 percent of the schools or agencies.)

Enrollments. Because some students may receive a public education outside a local school district or school (for example, in a state-operated residential school), the numbers of students on the school or agency reports are not used as the official state totals. The numbers of students shown in table 1 are taken from the State Nonfiscal Survey of the CCD. The percentages of students shown in tables are based on the School or Agency Surveys.

It should be noted that this report, which includes only schools with pupils in membership, excludes a disproportionately high number of vocational schools whose enrollment is often attributed to a regular school.

Key Terms

A *public school* provides educational services to students, has an assigned administrator, receives public funds as its primary support, and is operated by an education agency. A single school may operate at multiple locations (for example, an urban "storefront school" for potential dropouts with a single principal responsible for programs at several addresses). And, two schools may operate at the same location, as is the case when a kindergarten-grade 12 facility has both an elementary and a high school principal. This report excluded 1,905 schools (28 of these were in the outlying areas) that did not report

any students in membership for the 1997-98 school year.

Regular schools do not focus primarily on special, vocational, or alternative education, although they may offer these programs in addition to the regular curriculum. A *special education school* focuses primarily on special education, with materials and instructional approaches adapted to meet the students' needs. A *vocational education school* focuses primarily on vocational, technical or career education and provides education or training in at least one semiskilled or technical occupation. An *alternative education school* addresses the needs of students that typically cannot be met in the regular school setting, and provides nontraditional education.

Membership is the annual headcount of students enrolled in school on October 1, or the school day closest to that date. In any given year, some small schools will not have any pupils. And, in reporting to the CCD, states assign students who attend more than one school to a single school rather than prorating students across all the schools they attend.

Instructional levels are calculated from the lowest and highest grades for which students are reported in a school. Primary schools are those with a low grade of prekindergarten through grade 3 and a high grade of up to 8. Middle schools contain a low grade of 4 to 7 and a high grade ranging from 4 to 9. High schools have a low grade of 7 to 12 and must extend through grade 12. All other grade configurations, including schools that are completely ungraded, are grouped under the heading of "other."

Free lunch eligibility is the number of students in a school who apply for and are

eligible to receive free lunch under the National School Lunch Act.

A *dropout* is a student who was enrolled at any time during the previous year, is not enrolled at the beginning of the current year, and has not graduated or transferred to another school.

The *race/ethnicity* categories used in the CCD are those approved, at the time these data were collected, by the federal Office of Management and Budget. They are mutually exclusive.

IEP counts are reported at the school district level and reflect the numbers of students with individualized education programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)- Part B.

School locale code is assigned on the basis of the school's mailing address. The locale code categories are:

Large city—central city of a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or consolidated MSA (CMSA), with a population of at least 250,000.

Midsize city—central city of an MSA or CMSA, with a population less than 250,000.

Urban fringe of a large city—any incorporated place, Census-designated place (CDP), or non-place territory within a CMSA or MSA of a large city and defined as urban by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Urban fringe of a midsize city—any incorporated place, CDP, or non-place within a CMSA or MSA of a midsize central city and defined as urban by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Large town—an incorporated place or CDP with a population of at least 25,000 and located outside a CMSA or MSA.

Small town—an incorporated place or CDP with a population between 2,500 and 24,999 and located outside a CMSA or MSA.

Rural—any incorporated place, CDP, or non-place territory designated as rural by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Regular school districts are agencies responsible for providing free public education for school-age children residing within their jurisdiction. This category excludes local supervisory unions that provide management services for a group of associated school districts; regional education service agencies that typically provide school districts with research, testing, or data processing services; state and federally operated school districts; and other agencies that do not fall into these groupings. There were 1,589 such agencies in 1997-98; 608 of these reported students and 981 did not. This report excluded 378 regular school districts that did not report any students in membership for the 1997-98 school year, a condition that can occur when a small district has no pupils or contracts with another district to educate the students under its jurisdiction.

More information

For further information about this *Statistics in Brief* or related publications and data sets, contact Lena McDowell at (202) 219-1628 or electronic mail at Lena_Mcdowell@ed.gov. More NCES publications are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd>.

Acknowledgments

This paper was improved by the suggestions of the reviewers, John Tai of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Frank Morgan and Holly Spurlock of NCES. Marilyn McMillen and Andrew Kolstad of NCES provided valuable technical guidance, while Beth Young ensured the quality of the information and the analyses. The tables were prepared by Michael Freeman of the U.S. Bureau of the Census and Yanfen Mu of Pinkerton.

Table 1. Number of public elementary and secondary schools with membership and percentage of students in membership, by type of school and by state: School year 1997-1998

State	Schools having membership	Total students	Type of school							
			Regular		Special education		Vocational education		Alternative education	
			Number of schools	Percentage of students	Number of schools	Percentage of students	Number of schools	Percentage of students	Number of schools	Percentage of students
United States	87,631	46,127,194	82,127	98.1	1,764	0.5	360	0.4	3,380	1.0
Alabama	1,345	749,187	1,310	99.7	16	0.1	3	0.0	16	0.2
Alaska	497	132,123	451	95.0	2	0.3	4	0.5	40	4.3
Arizona	1,384	814,113	1,295	97.6	13	0.1	5	0.5	71	1.8
Arkansas	1,112	456,497	1,111	99.5	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0
California	8,178	5,803,734	7,246	96.5	128	0.5	0	0.0	804	3.0
Colorado	1,497	687,167	1,428	98.8	7	0.0	3	0.1	59	1.1
Connecticut	1,058	535,164	977	96.6	22	0.6	17	1.8	42	1.0
Delaware	185	111,960	149	91.8	28	2.9	5	5.0	3	0.2
District of Columbia	170	77,111	153	96.2	10	2.4	0	0.0	7	1.5
Florida	2,877	2,294,077	2,431	97.5	108	0.9	44	0.2	294	1.5
Georgia	1,823	1,375,980	1,817	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.0
Hawaii	250	189,887	246	99.9	3	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Idaho	636	244,403	569	98.2	15	0.2	0	0.0	52	1.6
Illinois	4,228	1,998,289	3,863	97.2	246	1.3	26	0.7	93	0.9
Indiana	1,859	987,483	1,803	99.5	19	0.2	1	0.0	36	0.3
Iowa	1,548	501,054	1,501	98.9	13	0.2	0	0.0	34	0.9
Kansas	1,453	468,687	1,439	99.6	1	0.0	0	0.0	13	0.3
Kentucky	1,352	669,322	1,292	99.6	8	0.1	1	0.0	51	0.3
Louisiana	1,476	776,813	1,383	98.5	36	0.3	5	0.1	52	1.1
Maine	697	212,526	694	100.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Maryland	1,298	830,744	1,210	97.3	49	0.9	11	1.1	28	0.6
Massachusetts	1,858	949,006	1,783	96.1	1	0.0	42	3.4	32	0.5
Michigan	3,625	1,702,672	3,387	98.0	120	1.0	17	0.2	101	0.8
Minnesota	2,012	853,621	1,552	96.2	64	0.3	2	0.0	394	3.5
Mississippi	874	504,792	874	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Missouri	2,194	910,654	2,083	99.1	59	0.4	5	0.3	47	0.2
Montana	889	162,335	884	99.9	2	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1
Nebraska	1,353	292,681	1,295	99.6	58	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nevada	448	296,621	415	98.2	11	0.4	2	0.6	20	0.8
New Hampshire	513	201,629	513	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
New Jersey	2,313	1,250,276	2,184	97.5	81	0.7	48	1.8	0	0.0
New Mexico	744	331,673	694	98.4	15	0.5	0	0.0	35	1.1
New York	4,204	2,861,823	4,014	97.0	88	0.7	25	1.2	77	1.0
North Carolina	2,048	1,236,083	1,970	99.3	26	0.3	3	0.0	49	0.4
North Dakota	565	118,572	565	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ohio	3,841	1,847,035	3,748	98.0	28	0.2	43	1.6	22	0.2
Oklahoma	1,818	623,681	1,806	99.7	12	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Oregon	1,252	541,346	1,180	98.1	17	0.5	0	0.0	55	1.4
Pennsylvania	3,115	1,815,151	3,078	98.3	12	1.0	14	0.6	11	0.1
Rhode Island	314	153,321	304	98.6	4	0.4	3	0.5	3	0.4
South Carolina	1,055	659,256	1,029	99.6	9	0.1	0	0.0	17	0.3
South Dakota	814	142,443	797	98.9	8	0.3	0	0.0	9	0.8
Tennessee	1,522	893,020	1,498	99.7	15	0.2	0	0.0	9	0.0
Texas	7,053	3,891,877	6,312	98.1	237	0.4	20	0.1	484	1.3
Utah	759	482,957	687	98.0	22	0.5	2	0.1	48	1.5
Vermont	355	105,984	321	98.8	33	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.0
Virginia	1,811	1,110,815	1,739	99.4	31	0.2	0	0.0	41	0.5
Washington	2,016	991,235	1,801	97.8	56	0.2	5	0.1	154	1.9
West Virginia	819	301,419	797	99.6	9	0.2	3	0.0	10	0.2
Wisconsin	2,112	881,780	2,055	99.5	14	0.1	0	0.0	43	0.4
Wyoming	412	97,115	394	98.8	5	0.3	0	0.0	13	1.0
Outlying areas										
DOD Dependents	160	78,254	160	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
American Samoa	31	15,214	29	98.0	1	0.2	1	1.7	0	0.0
Guam	36	32,444	36	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Northern Marianas	26	9,246	26	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Puerto Rico	1,516	617,322	1,477	98.5	29	0.3	10	1.2	0	0.0
Virgin Islands	35	22,136	33	99.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.5

NOTE: Table excludes 1,905 schools (28 of these in outlying areas) for which no students were reported in membership. Type of school is a mutually exclusive category. Special education, vocational education, and alternative programs may reside in other types of schools. U.S. totals exclude outlying areas. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not add to 100. Percentages of less than 0.05 are rounded to 0.0. Number of students in membership is reported on the State Nonfiscal Survey.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, School Universe and State Nonfiscal Survey, 1997-98.

Table 2. Number and percentage of schools with membership and percentage of students in membership, by community type: School year 1997-98

Community type	Number of schools	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students
United States	87,631	100.0	100.0
Large city	11,350	13.0	17.5
Midsize city	12,785	14.6	16.2
Urban fringe large city	21,385	24.4	29.9
Urban fringe midsize city	7,762	8.9	9.6
Large town	1,484	1.7	1.6
Small town	11,229	12.8	10.9
Rural	21,636	24.7	14.3

NOTE: Community types classify the location of a school relative to populous areas. See Key Terms for definitions of locale codes. Table includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Table excludes 1,877 schools without membership. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not add to 100.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, School Universe, 1997-98.

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Table 3. Percentage of public elementary and secondary schools providing instruction and percentage of students in membership, by specified level of instruction and by state: School year 1997-98

State	Number of schools having membership	Percentage by Instructional Level							
		Primary		Middle		High		Other	
		Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students
United States	87,631	58.5	50.1	17.3	19.6	18.9	27.1	5.3	3.1
Alabama	1,345	51.4	44.5	16.6	16.5	19.8	25.7	12.2	13.4
Alaska	497	36.8	46.1	6.8	13.2	14.5	24.7	41.9	16.0
Arizona	1,384	60.4	55.3	16.3	17.6	17.1	25.6	6.2	1.5
Arkansas	1,112	51.6	47.1	16.8	19.8	29.0	28.2	2.5	4.9
California	8,178	63.3	53.1	14.8	17.9	17.6	26.6	4.3	2.4
Colorado	1,497	59.0	50.3	17.8	20.7	19.3	26.6	3.9	2.5
Connecticut	1,058	61.8	51.8	17.0	20.5	16.6	26.5	4.5	1.2
Delaware	185	46.5	40.8	22.7	27.2	18.4	29.5	12.4	2.5
District of Columbia	170	64.7	62.4	13.5	14.2	13.5	18.6	8.2	4.7
Florida	2,877	55.9	49.3	16.2	21.0	13.0	21.5	14.9	8.2
Georgia	1,823	62.3	51.2	18.3	20.0	15.4	24.8	4.1	4.1
Hawaii	250	69.6	55.5	12.0	13.7	14.0	28.3	4.4	2.4
Idaho	636	53.8	48.1	16.7	21.4	25.3	28.1	4.2	2.3
Illinois	4,228	61.3	55.4	16.9	15.2	17.8	26.9	4.1	2.5
Indiana	1,859	62.0	49.9	16.7	18.0	18.7	29.7	2.6	2.4
Iowa	1,548	54.4	45.7	19.1	20.1	24.2	32.2	2.3	2.0
Kansas	1,453	57.7	49.7	17.0	19.6	24.4	30.1	0.8	0.5
Kentucky	1,352	58.4	49.2	17.1	19.9	20.0	30.2	4.5	0.7
Louisiana	1,476	53.9	47.8	19.3	19.8	16.4	25.7	10.4	6.6
Maine	697	63.6	48.5	18.1	21.9	15.8	27.9	2.6	1.7
Maryland	1,298	65.6	51.8	17.6	20.6	14.2	26.6	2.5	1.0
Massachusetts	1,858	65.1	51.6	16.8	19.7	15.6	25.5	2.4	3.2
Michigan	3,625	58.4	49.3	17.2	20.4	18.8	27.6	5.6	2.7
Minnesota	2,012	51.6	47.5	13.3	18.8	28.6	31.6	6.5	2.0
Mississippi	874	50.0	43.9	19.2	19.2	20.5	25.3	10.3	11.7
Missouri	2,194	54.9	49.1	16.3	19.8	22.6	29.1	6.2	2.0
Montana	889	53.1	48.4	27.0	20.3	19.7	30.7	0.2	0.6
Nebraska	1,353	67.3	50.7	8.1	15.0	23.0	33.6	1.7	0.7
Nevada	448	65.0	52.4	14.3	20.8	17.4	25.1	3.3	1.6
New Hampshire	513	66.5	49.1	18.3	23.3	15.2	27.6	0.0	0.0
New Jersey	2,313	62.8	52.5	17.6	18.4	13.5	25.9	6.1	3.2
New Mexico	744	58.1	48.5	20.6	22.0	17.7	27.1	3.6	2.4
New York	4,204	58.2	49.8	16.7	18.8	18.2	27.1	6.9	4.3
North Carolina	2,048	60.0	51.1	20.3	21.5	16.3	25.8	3.4	1.7
North Dakota	565	58.4	50.8	6.7	11.9	33.6	34.8	1.2	2.5
Ohio	3,841	57.7	47.4	19.1	20.1	18.9	30.4	4.3	2.1
Oklahoma	1,818	54.2	51.2	19.3	21.2	25.4	25.5	1.2	2.2
Oregon	1,252	60.7	47.8	17.5	21.0	16.9	28.5	4.9	2.6
Pennsylvania	3,115	61.9	47.8	17.3	19.9	19.2	30.0	1.6	2.3
Rhode Island	314	68.8	50.5	16.2	21.7	13.4	27.6	1.6	0.3
South Carolina	1,055	56.0	46.7	22.9	23.9	18.1	28.0	2.9	1.4
South Dakota	814	51.0	47.5	24.2	21.3	23.3	31.0	1.5	0.2
Tennessee	1,522	61.5	52.8	16.3	17.1	18.3	27.0	3.9	3.1
Texas	7,053	50.9	48.5	20.9	22.9	19.3	25.7	8.9	2.9
Utah	759	58.9	50.2	16.5	21.6	19.6	26.1	5.0	2.1
Vermont	355	69.9	52.9	6.8	9.0	13.2	29.5	10.1	8.5
Virginia	1,811	61.9	48.8	18.2	21.6	16.5	28.4	3.5	1.2
Washington	2,016	56.6	49.5	16.9	20.2	20.4	27.3	6.2	3.0
West Virginia	819	64.5	48.5	16.1	20.3	15.9	28.4	3.5	2.8
Wisconsin	2,112	58.7	48.0	17.7	19.5	21.2	30.9	2.5	1.6
Wyoming	412	56.1	46.3	22.8	24.2	18.4	28.5	2.7	1.1
Outlying areas									
DOD Dependents	160	56.9	59.1	11.3	11.4	23.8	21.4	8.1	8.1
American Samoa	31	74.2	72.7	3.2	4.6	19.4	22.5	3.2	0.2
Guam	36	69.4	52.1	19.4	21.7	11.1	26.2	0.0	0.0
Northern Marianas	26	84.6	64.3	3.8	11.4	11.5	24.4	0.0	0.0
Puerto Rico	1,516	59.6	46.1	14.3	16.8	11.3	20.3	14.8	16.7
Virgin Islands	35	65.7	53.4	20.0	17.1	11.4	28.0	2.9	1.5

NOTE: Instructional levels are Primary (low grade Prekindergarten to 3, high grade up to 8); Middle (low grade 4 to 7, high grade 4 to 9); High (low grade 7 to 12, high grade 12 only); Other (any configuration not falling within the previous three, including ungraded schools). Table excludes 1,905 schools (28 in outlying areas) for which no students were reported in membership. U.S. totals exclude outlying areas. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not add to 100.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, School Universe, 1997-98.

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Table 4. Number of regular public elementary and secondary school districts providing instruction and percentage of students in membership, by grade span and by state: School year 1997-98

State	Total districts	Grade span							
		PK, K, 1 to 8 or below		PK, K, 1 to 9 - 12		7, 8, 9 to 7 - 12		Other	
		Number of districts	Percentage of students	Number of districts	Percentage of students	Number of districts	Percentage of students	Number of districts	Percentage of students
United States	14,427	3,153	5.9	10,580	91.8	557	2.3	137	0.1
Alabama	127	0	0.0	127	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Alaska	53	0	0.0	53	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Arizona	307	146	28.8	101	61.3	38	9.4	22	0.5
Arkansas	311	0	0.0	311	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
California	994	584	21.2	312	69.5	96	9.1	2	0.2
Colorado	176	2	0.0	174	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Connecticut	166	46	4.9	112	93.6	8	1.5	0	0.0
Delaware	19	0	0.0	15	94.2	4	5.8	0	0.0
District of Columbia	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Florida	67	0	0.0	67	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Georgia	180	7	0.2	173	99.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hawaii	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Idaho	112	5	0.1	106	99.9	0	0.0	1	0.0
Illinois	927	387	25.4	408	63.9	123	10.6	9	0.1
Indiana	292	1	0.0	291	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Iowa	377	24	0.9	353	99.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kansas	304	2	0.1	302	99.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kentucky	176	6	0.3	170	99.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Louisiana	66	0	0.0	66	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Maine	227	108	12.2	113	86.7	5	1.1	1	0.0
Maryland	24	0	0.0	24	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Massachusetts	245	67	5.1	176	94.8	2	0.2	0	0.0
Michigan	659	88	0.8	535	98.8	17	0.1	19	0.3
Minnesota	373	30	0.5	334	99.2	8	0.2	1	0.0
Mississippi	152	0	0.0	149	99.8	3	0.2	0	0.0
Missouri	524	74	1.3	450	98.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Montana	457	282	61.0	52	11.8	113	27.1	10	0.1
Nebraska	624	312	3.6	266	94.8	21	1.5	25	0.0
Nevada	17	1	0.0	16	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
New Hampshire	165	89	19.5	65	74.6	9	4.1	2	1.8
New Jersey	581	290	18.6	214	73.3	51	6.6	26	1.5
New Mexico	89	0	0.0	89	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
New York	705	42	1.0	646	98.4	9	0.6	8	0.0
North Carolina	117	0	0.0	117	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
North Dakota	231	47	2.5	174	96.8	7	0.6	3	0.1
Ohio	611	1	0.0	610	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Oklahoma	547	115	3.5	430	96.5	0	0.0	2	0.1
Oregon	198	18	0.1	177	99.9	1	0.0	2	0.0
Pennsylvania	500	2	0.0	498	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rhode Island	36	4	1.5	31	97.5	0	0.0	1	1.0
South Carolina	90	2	0.1	86	99.6	1	0.1	1	0.2
South Dakota	173	7	1.0	166	99.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tennessee	137	15	2.7	122	97.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Texas	1,042	68	0.3	974	99.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Utah	40	0	0.0	40	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Vermont	250	184	43.4	35	32.3	30	22.5	1	1.8
Virginia	132	1	0.0	131	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Washington	296	47	1.0	248	99.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
West Virginia	55	0	0.0	55	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Wisconsin	426	47	2.6	368	96.2	11	1.2	0	0.0
Wyoming	48	2	0.6	46	99.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Outlying areas									
DOD Dependents	12	0	0.0	12	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
American Samoa	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Guam	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Northern Marianas	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Puerto Rico	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Virgin Islands	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

NOTE: Grade span is determined by the highest and lowest grades for which student membership is reported among all schools associated with the district. Other includes all grade configurations not represented in the other categories and includes ungraded districts. Table excludes 378 regular school districts for which no students were reported in membership. U.S. totals exclude outlying areas. Table includes 12 Defense Department school districts for military personnel overseas, which are technically federally operated agencies. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not add to 100. Percentages of less than 0.05 are rounded to 0.0.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, Agency and School Universes 1997-98.

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Table 5. Distribution of regular public elementary and secondary school districts and students, by district membership size: School year 1997-1998

District membership size	Number of districts	Percentage of districts	Percentage of students
United States	14,427	100.0	100.0
100,000 or more	25	0.2	12.4
25,000 to 99,999	205	1.4	19.1
10,000 to 24,999	572	4.0	18.6
7,500 to 9,999	339	2.3	6.3
5,000 to 7,499	699	4.8	9.2
2,500 to 4,999	2,079	14.4	15.9
2,000 to 2,499	847	5.9	4.1
1,500 to 1,999	1,091	7.6	4.1
1,000 to 1,499	1,586	11.0	4.3
800 to 999	815	5.6	1.6
600 to 799	960	6.7	1.5
450 to 599	944	6.5	1.1
300 to 449	1,100	7.6	0.9
150 to 299	1,427	9.9	0.7
1 to 149	1,738	12.0	0.3

NOTE: Table includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and excludes 378 regular school districts for which no students were reported in membership. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not add to 100.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, Agency Universe, 1997-98.

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Table 6. Selected characteristics of public elementary and secondary school membership as a percentage of school membership by state: School year 1997-98

State	Percentage of membership free lunch eligible	Percentage of membership Individualized Education Program	American Indian / Alaskan Native	Asian / Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non Hispanic	White Non Hispanic
United States	--	11.9	1.2	3.9	14.5	17.1	63.4
Alabama	38.2	13.2	0.8	0.7	0.8	36.0	61.7
Alaska	24.5	13.7	24.8	4.8	3.0	4.7	62.8
Arizona	--	10.1	7.0	1.8	30.8	4.4	56.0
Arkansas	37.1	10.5	0.4	0.8	2.2	23.7	72.9
California	47.0	10.7	0.9	11.1	40.5	8.8	38.8
Colorado	21.9	9.9	1.1	2.7	19.3	5.6	71.3
Connecticut	19.7	13.6	0.2	2.5	12.1	13.7	71.5
Delaware	30.5	12.2	0.2	1.9	4.6	30.1	63.2
District of Columbia	--	10.0	0.0	1.5	7.5	87.0	4.0
Florida	36.4	14.2	0.2	1.8	16.4	25.4	56.2
Georgia	43.1	10.0	0.1	1.9	2.9	38.0	57.1
Hawaii	27.3	9.2	0.4	70.7	4.7	2.6	21.6
Idaho	23.4	10.7	1.3	1.2	9.2	0.7	87.6
Illinois	--	11.8	0.2	3.1	13.2	21.3	62.3
Indiana	22.4	14.0	0.2	0.8	2.6	11.3	85.1
Iowa	20.6	13.5	0.5	1.6	2.6	3.5	91.8
Kansas	32.3	14.9	1.1	2.0	7.0	8.6	81.3
Kentucky	39.6	12.9	0.1	0.5	0.5	10.3	88.5
Louisiana	50.8	12.1	0.6	1.3	1.2	46.7	50.2
Maine	24.2	14.4	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.9	97.1
Maryland	25.5	13.0	0.3	4.0	3.7	36.1	55.9
Massachusetts	--	17.2	0.2	4.1	9.7	8.5	77.5
Michigan	25.4	4.1	1.0	1.6	2.8	19.1	75.4
Minnesota	19.2	12.0	2.0	4.4	2.5	5.6	85.5
Mississippi	55.6	12.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	50.9	47.6
Missouri	27.9	15.2	0.3	1.1	1.3	16.7	80.6
Montana	22.8	11.6	10.0	0.8	1.5	0.5	87.1
Nebraska	21.8	14.5	1.5	1.4	5.3	6.2	85.7
Nevada	32.9	10.7	1.9	4.8	20.5	9.7	63.2
New Hampshire	11.3	13.6	0.2	1.1	1.4	1.0	96.3
New Jersey	24.5	6.2	0.2	5.7	14.0	18.3	61.9
New Mexico	--	17.2	10.6	1.0	48.0	2.4	38.0
New York	36.6	14.2	0.5	5.4	17.8	20.4	55.9
North Carolina	31.2	12.9	1.5	1.6	2.7	31.0	63.2
North Dakota	21.5	10.9	8.3	0.8	1.1	0.9	88.9
Ohio	22.2	11.9	0.1	1.0	1.5	15.5	81.9
Oklahoma	36.4	12.4	15.5	1.3	4.5	10.6	68.1
Oregon	24.8	10.7	2.1	3.5	8.1	2.6	83.7
Pennsylvania	--	11.0	0.1	1.8	3.9	14.5	79.7
Rhode Island	28.0	17.7	0.5	3.4	11.5	7.5	77.2
South Carolina	42.3	12.9	0.2	0.8	1.0	42.2	55.8
South Dakota	32.3	11.4	14.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	82.9
Tennessee	--	13.6	0.1	1.0	0.9	23.2	74.8
Texas	38.9	12.1	0.3	2.4	37.9	14.4	45.0
Utah	19.0	11.3	1.5	2.5	6.6	0.8	88.6
Vermont	--	10.6	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.9	97.1
Virginia	25.6	13.3	0.2	3.6	3.6	27.0	65.5
Washington	--	10.7	2.8	6.9	8.6	4.9	76.8
West Virginia	40.3	16.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	4.1	95.1
Wisconsin	20.0	12.8	1.4	3.0	3.6	9.8	82.2
Wyoming	19.9	12.3	2.9	0.8	6.6	1.1	88.6
Outlying areas							
DOD Dependents	--	8.5	1.0	10.1	8.5	21.9	58.5
American Samoa	94.9	3.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guam	27.6	5.9	0.1	95.9	0.3	0.6	3.1
Northern Marianas	38.8	3.6	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.9
Puerto Rico	80.9	8.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Virgin Islands	66.4	7.7	0.0	0.3	14.1	84.7	0.9

NOTE: Data are shown as "--" if reported for less than 70 percent of schools or agencies. Percentages are based on schools and agencies reporting. National percentages are shown as "--" if data were missing for one or more states. U.S. totals exclude outlying areas. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not add to 100.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, School and Agency Universes, 1997-98.

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Table 7. Number and percentage of students dropping out of grades 9 through 12 and percentage of dropouts who are male or minority, by reporting states: School year 1996-97

State	Grade 9-12 number of dropouts	Grade 9-12 percentage dropouts	Percentage dropouts who were male	Percentage dropouts who were minority
Alabama	10,910	5.3	58.7	40.7
Alaska	1,728	4.9	57.2	47.6
Arkansas	6,748	5.0	58.8	29.4
California	51,403	3.3	55.5	74.3
Connecticut	5,390	3.9	57.5	48.6
Delaware	1,464	4.5	58.2	45.5
Georgia	29,294	8.2	59.9	48.6
Hawaii	2,525	4.8	53.1	77.0
Indiana	9,246	3.2	58.9	20.6
Iowa	4,621	2.9	57.4	15.1
Kansas	6,323	4.6	56.6	33.7
Louisiana	25,087	11.6	57.9	55.7
Maine	1,845	3.2	58.1	3.1
Massachusetts	8,423	3.4	57.5	37.6
Minnesota	13,449	5.5	57.4	32.9
Mississippi	8,309	6.0	59.8	58.0
Missouri	15,020	5.8	57.3	29.8
Montana	2,140	5.1	56.9	18.6
Nebraska	3,773	4.3	59.6	28.9
Nevada	7,600	10.2	54.5	43.8
New Mexico	7,230	7.5	55.8	72.4
New York	27,280	3.4	56.2	64.1
North Dakota	1,004	2.7	57.9	31.1
Ohio	28,507	5.2	60.1	32.2
Oregon	10,573	6.9	56.2	23.7
Pennsylvania	20,463	3.9	57.9	42.6
Rhode Island	1,933	4.7	59.7	31.5
South Carolina	5,049	2.7	61.9	50.6
Texas	36,521	3.6	54.8	70.5
Utah	6,807	4.5	52.9	20.8
West Virginia	3,851	4.1	57.5	5.0
Wyoming	1,963	6.2	57.2	17.8

NOTE: Membership in ungraded districts reporting dropouts is prorated across grades. Table includes all districts reporting 0 or more dropouts in any of grades 9 through 12.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, Agency Universe 1997-98; State Nonfiscal Survey and School Universe, 1996-97.

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